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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,815	01/20/2004	Charles W. Marsh	017058-0307819	9990
7590 Pillsbury Winthrop LLP Intellectual Property Group Suite 200 11682 El Camino Real. San Diego, CA 92130-2092		04/23/2007	EXAMINER PATEL, DHIRUBHAI R	
			ART UNIT 2831	PAPER NUMBER
SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE		MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE	
3 MONTHS		04/23/2007	PAPER	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/761,815

Applicant(s)

MARSH ET AL.

Examiner

DHIRU R. PATEL

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/26/07 DS
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

Claim Objections

1. Claims 10 and 21-23 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 10 line 1, " a relay" should be - - said relay - -.

In claim 21 lines 6-7, " at least two of Communication with one another" is confusing and unclear in light of the specification because it is not clear that how the plurality of connectors are in electrical communication with another, the inventor is responsible to explain what type of communication being exchanged between two connectors.

Specification

2. The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. See 37 CFR 1.75(d)(1) and MPEP § 608.01(o). Correction of the following is required:

In claim 21 lines 6-7, " at least two of Communication with one another" is not adequately supported by the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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3. Claims 1, 8, 11-12, 17-18, 20-21 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by O'Brien et al (6,120,327).

O'Brien et al disclose:

Regarding claims 1 and 17, an electronic assembly, which comprises:

a wiring harness 26 (see fig 1, column 2 lines 50-65); connectors 52 connected to the wiring harness (see fig 1 and entire column 3); and, a molded body 20 formed to completely encapsulate the wiring harness and provide access to the connectors (see fig 1 and entire columns 1-2). With respect to claim 17, wherein said molded body has sufficient strength and hardness to act as a frame that is configured to firmly hold said plurality of connectors and said wiring harness as one piece (see entire columns 1-4).

Regarding claim 8, including a socket 34 affixed to the molded body, the socket being connected to the wiring harness (see fig 1).

Regarding claim 11, including shielding 78 for said wiring harness encapsulated within the molded body (see fig 4, column 3 line 50).

Regarding claim 12, wherein said shielding includes a conductive material surrounding the wiring harness (see entire columns 3-4).

Regarding claim 18, wherein said molded body includes a base portion 24 that extends between said plurality of connectors (see fig 1).

Regarding claim 20, an electronic assembly comprising:

a plurality of connectors 52 (see fig 1);

a wiring harness 26 connected to said plurality of connectors (see fig 1), and

a molded body 20 formed to completely encapsulate said wiring harness and to

cover a portion of each of said plurality of connectors (see fig 1 and entire columns 1-3), said molded body including a base portion 24 that extends between said plurality of connectors (see fig 1).

Regarding claim 21, as best understood, an electronic assembly comprising:

a plurality of connectors 52 (see fig 1);

a wiring harness 26 connected to said plurality of connectors (see fig 1), and

a molded body 20 formed to completely encapsulate said wiring harness and to

cover a portion of each of said plurality of connectors (see fig 1), wherein at least two of the plurality of connectors are in electrical communication with one another (see fig 1).

Regarding claim 25, wherein the wiring harness includes wiring bundles that interconnect the connectors (see figs 1 and 3).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

4. Claims 3-5, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over O'Brien et al (6,120,327) in view of Becker (5,107,989).

O'Brien et al disclose:

Regarding claims 3 and 23, O'Brien et al disclose all the features of the claimed invention as shown above, but fails to disclose a conductive coating on the outer surface of the molded body for claims 3 and 23. Becker teaches the use of a body (a conventional box, see column 3 line 29) with the coating on the exterior surface of the illustrative box is electrically conductive (see column 3 lines 55-57) in order to provide a conductive path to ground for dissipating any electrostatic charges on the box whenever it comes into contact with a ground surface (see column 3 lines 55-62). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the assembly of O'Brien et al with a conductive coating on the outer surface of the molded body as taught by Becker in order to provide a conductive

path to ground for dissipating any electrostatic charges on the box whenever it comes into contact with a ground surface. With respect to claim 4, the conductive coating 30 (see column 4 lines 1-15 of Becker).

Regarding claim 5, It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the assembly of O'Brien et al with the conductive coating comprises a metallic layer applied to the outer surface of the molded body , since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416.

5. Claims 1-2, 6-10, 13-17, 19 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hull et al (7,186,915) in view of O'Brien et al (6,120,327).

Hull et al disclose:

Regarding claims 1 and 17, an electronic assembly, which comprises:

connectors 12a-12c (see fig 1 and entire column 3); and, a molded body A (see fig1, column 3 lines 15-25), and provide access to the connectors (see fig 1), but fails to disclose a wiring harness, said connectors being connected to the wiring harness and said body formed to completely encapsulate the wiring harness. O'Brien et al tech the use of a molded body 20 with wiring harness 26 and connectors 52 being connected to the wiring harness formed to completely encapsulate the wiring harness and provide access to the connectors (see fig 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the

assembly of Hull et al with a wiring harness to connect the connectors and the molded body formed to completely encapsulate the wiring harness as taught by O'Brien et al in order to facilitate connecting field cables with the connector and routing wires to the electrical components being mounted inside the molded body. With respect to claim 17, wherein said molded body has sufficient strength and hardness to act as a frame that is configured to firmly hold said plurality of connectors and said wiring harness as one piece (see entire abstract of Hull et al).

Regarding claim 2, wherein the molded body comprises a plastic material (see entire abstract of Hull et al).

Regarding claim 6, including a mounting fixture 30-33 connected to the molded body (see fig 2 of Hull et al).

Regarding claim 7, wherein the mounting fixture includes a ground connection (see fig 2 of Hull et al).

Regarding claim 8, including a socket 12a-12c affixed to the molded body, the socket being connected to the wiring harness (see fig 1 of Hull et al).

Regarding claim 9, the socket to adapted to receiver a relay (see fig 1 of Hull et al).

Regarding claim 10, is included in this rejection as best understood.

Regarding claim 13, wherein said connectors are molded into the molded body (see fig1 and entire abstract of Hull et al) . .

Regarding claim 14, wherein said wiring harness includes a plurality of ends that are each connected to one of said connectors (see fig 1 of O'Brien et al).

Regarding claim 15, wherein said wiring harness includes three ends (see fig 1 of O'Brien et al).

Regarding claims 16 and 24, wherein the mounting fixtures are molded into the molded body (see entire abstract of Hull et al).

Regarding claim 19, further comprising a plurality of mounting fixtures that are molded into the molded body (see fig1 and entire abstract of Hull et al).

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to DHIRU R. PATEL whose telephone number is 571-272-1983. The examiner can normally be reached on M-TH, 6:30 TO 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean Reichard can be reached on 571-272-1984. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


DHIRU R PATEL
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2831

4/16/07
